PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

TRANSLATION INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

	nt's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT		See Form PCT/IPEA/416					
International application No.		International filing date (day/month/year)		Priority date (day/month/year)					
PCT	/JP2004/016953	15.11.2004		19.11.2003					
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC									
H01M8/02, H01M8/10									
Applicant NITTO DENKO CORPORATION									
1.	1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.								
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of _	4	_ sheets, including	this cover sheet.					
3.	This report is also accompanied by A	NNEXES, comprising:							
	a. (sent to the applicant and	to the International Bureau)	a total of 2	sheets, as follows:					
	sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).								
	sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.								
		n t) 441 cc t	1 1						
	b (sent to the International i	Bureau only) a total of (indic	ite type and number	of electronic carrier(s))					
				, containing a sequence listing and/or tables					
	Section 802 of the Administ	•	ated in the Supplem	nental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see					
4.	This report contains indications relating	ng to the following items:							
	Box No. I Basis of the	report							
	Box No. II Priority								
	Box No. III Non-establia	shment of opinion with regar	ł to novelty, inventiv	e step and industrial applicability					
	Box No. IV Lack of unit	y of invention							
	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement								
	Box No. VI Certain doc	uments cited							
	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application								
	Box No. VIII Certain obse	Certain observations on the international application							
Date of submission of the demand			of completion of this	report					
			-						
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP			orized officer						
Engrippile No.			hono No						

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/016953

Box	No. I	I Basis of the report							
1.		th regard to the language, this report is based on the internation icated under this item.	nal application in the language in	which it was filed, unless otherwise					
		This report is based on translations from the original language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purport international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) publication of the international application (Rule 12.4 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and	oses of:	,					
2.	rece	h regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the reviving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to report): the international application as originally filed/furnished the description:							
		pages <u>1-2,4-17</u>		as originally filed/furnished					
		pages* 3							
		pages*	received by this Authority on						
	\boxtimes	the claims:							
		nos. 3–12		as originally filed/furnished					
		nos.*	as amended (togethe	r with any statement) under Article 19					
		nos.* 1	received by this Authority on	15.09.2005					
	_	nos.*	received by this Authority on						
	\boxtimes	the drawings:							
		sheets fig. 1-16		as originally filed/furnished					
		sheets*	received by this Authority on						
		sheets*	received by this Authority on						
		a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplem	ental Box Relating to Sequence L	isting.					
3.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:							
		the description, pages							
		the claims, nos. 2	the claims, nos. 2						
		the drawings, sheets/figs							
		the sequence listing (specify):							
4.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amend they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as fi	lments annexed to this report and	listed below had not been made, since					
		the description, pages							
		the claims, nos.							
		the drawings, sheets/figs	the drawings, sheets/figs						
		the sequence listing (specify):							
		any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):							
*	If ite	em 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "sup	erseded."						

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/016953

Box			ticle 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; poorting such statement	
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1, 3-12	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1, 3-12	YES
		Claims		NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1, 3-12	YES
		Claims		NO

- 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)
 - Document 1: JP 8-162145 A (The Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc.), 21 June 1996
 - Document 2: JP 2002-175818 A (Honda Motor Co., Ltd.), 21

 June 2002
 - Document 3: JP 2003-178776 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 27

 June 2003
 - Document 4: JP 10-55813 A (Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd.), 24 February 1998
 - Document 5: JP 10-289722 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 27
 October 1998

Claims 1 and 3 to 12 are novel and involve an inventive step in relation to all of the documents that are cited in the international search report.

That is to say, the "fuel cell equipped with a tabular solid polymer electrolyte; a cathode-side electrode plate that is disposed on one side of said solid polymer electrolyte; an anode-side electrode plate that is disposed on the other side of said solid polymer electrolyte; a cathode-side metal plate that allows a gas to flow into the interior, which is disposed on the surface of the aforementioned cathode-side electrode plate; and an anode-side metal plate that allows the fuel

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

to flow into the interior, which is disposed on the surface of the aforementioned anode-side electrode plate; said fuel cell being configured so that the peripheral edges of the aforementioned solid polymer electrolyte protrude from the aforementioned electrode plates on both sides of the aforementioned solid polymer electrolyte, so that said peripheral edges are held between the aforementioned metal plates that face said peripheral edges, and so that the peripheral edges of the aforementioned metal plates on both sides of the aforementioned metal plates on both sides of the aforementioned solid polymer electrolyte are mechanically sealed by means of a bending press while in an electrically insulated state" is not disclosed or suggested in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report.